

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS SEEN FROM A FEMINIST APPROACH



Foundation and International instruments

We put on our violet glasses to achieve the SDG to make them a tangible reality in the lives of all women and girls and to promote the sustainable development of societies. We develop our work from a conceptual framework based on Human Rights with a gender perspective and intersectional feminism.

gender, but also class, age, racial ethnic origin, sexual orientation, functional diversity...



There is still a gap between formal and substantive rights almost everywhere in the world and **the formal recognition of equality between men and women is not enough to achieve the full realisation of Human Rights for women.**

Thanks to these feminist concepts, built from the practices and experiences of women themselves we have been able to develop and continue to expand the **instruments available for the protection and promotion of Human Rights for women.**

Since the last decades of the twentieth century, **the feminist movement and feminist critical theory, has demonstrated, denounced, conceptualised and politicised that:**

But still:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights originates from a founding myth: **the equality of all people.**
- It was built using as its parameter a male subject, white, heterosexual, owner, independent and autonomous, who was above limitations of class, race and gender and who exercised his rights in the public sphere. Leaving out, therefore, both the **specific realities and needs of women and other groups.** From the feminist perspective, this **androcentric and ethnocentric** view of Human Rights was criticised.
- That *harmful practices* are not based on culture, customs and religions but on the goal of controlling female sexuality and the **subordination** of women to men is emphasised.
- The redefinition of the Public-Private relationship.
- Feminism demonstrates and denounces the **patriarchal system.**
- ★ The classification of *women* as a universal category, to which Human Rights instruments are applied, leaves out the realities and experiences of individual women, which are located in the interweaving of multiple discrimination resulting from their multiple identities:

- The majority of women and girls throughout the world continue to face discrimination
- **Violence against women** and girls occurs in all countries, cultures and social classes.
- The recognition and exercise of **sexual and reproductive rights** is denied to millions of women and girls around the world, preventing them from exercising control over their own bodies and their sexuality.
- Women around the world continue to face discrimination in the public sphere, political participation, media, etc.
- There is a huge degree of impunity in relation to the Human Rights of girls and women.

The legal approach to Human Rights, expressed in Conventions and other Human Rights instruments for women is essential but not sufficient to bring about change in the culture that underpins unequal gender relations. Therefore, using feminism as a starting point, we are working to alter the patriarchal paradigm and to achieve social transformation, imbuing International Human Rights Instruments with content from political feminism and the Sustainable Development Goals.

★ Intersectional Feminism



International Instruments

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. CEDAW. 1979

- Is a legally binding instrument.
- Recognises the role of culture and traditions in maintaining discrimination against women and obliges States to eliminate stereotypes regarding the roles of men and women. Defines the concept of discrimination in all areas, private and public sphere.
- Empowers States to adopt temporary affirmative action measures and contains the concept of due diligence.

United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. 1993

- Recognises, for the first time, explicitly, that women's rights are effectively Human Rights.
- For the first time in an international Human Rights instrument it is recognised *that violence against women constitutes a violation of Human Rights and fundamental freedoms* and a firm condemnation is made of all forms of physical, sexual and psychological violence.

International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo. 1994

- First international instrument to explicitly include *sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights* among the Human Rights to be protected.
- Recognises the concepts of sexual and reproductive health as being key elements for the development of countries and for the empowerment of women.

Fourth World Conference on Women. Beijing. 1995

- Extends the range of women's rights to issues that could be recognised as an initial formulation of sexual rights: *Human Rights of women include their right to have control over matters related to their sexuality, including sexual health and reproductive, and freely decide on these issues without being subject to coercion, discrimination and violence.*

- Integrates the notion of *due diligence*, which requires States to prevent, investigate, punish and redress acts of violence.

Inter-American Convention to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women. Convention of Belem do Para. 1994

- First regional treaty on violence against women.
- Recognises violence against women as a manifestation of the historically unequal power relations between women and men.
- Takes into account especially the situation of vulnerability to violence that women may suffer due to, among other reasons, their race or ethnicity, being migrants, refugees or displaced persons.
- Recognition of violence perpetrated or condoned by the state or its agents, wherever it occurs.

Montevideo Consensus. 2013

- The implementation of the Montevideo Consensus is key to the efforts of the States to achieve the new SDG.
- Provides follows up to the Programme of Action of Cairo after 2014.
- Respect for sexual orientation, gender identity and allusion to the LGBT population is explicit. It also highlights the importance given to sexual and reproductive health as well as the value of secularism as an essential component for the full realisation of the exercise of Human Rights.
- Alludes specifically to the prevention of unsafe abortions.

Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights regarding the Rights of Women in Africa. 2003

- A legally binding instrument for the rights of African women, it extends and strengthens the rights enshrined in other Human Rights instruments.
- The Protocol gives women a wide range of economic and social welfare rights.
- It includes areas such as HIV and AIDS, trafficking, widow inheritance and property seizure. The Protocol establishes the reproductive right of women to medical abortion when pregnancy results from rape or incest, or when continuing pregnancy endangers the mental and physical health of the woman or her life. It stipulates that Party States must take steps to legally prohibit all forms of female genital mutilation (FGM) and prevent exploitation and abuse of women in advertising and pornography.

Regional Instruments

Istanbul Convention. 2011

- First binding instrument on violence against women in Europe. Violence against women is considered a Human Rights violation and a form of discrimination against women.

Made by:



Supported by:



More information on: agendessexuals.wordpress.com

